

Thinking of you  
at Christmas



If we could make just one wish this holiday season, it would be to see all of your hopes and wishes come true, just like you helped to make our dreams come true this past year.

Merry Christmas and many thanks.

From the Employees and Management of

**The PEOPLES Bank**

Elba and New Brockton

Member FDIC

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**INSIDE**

Leslie Stinson  
Featured In Co-  
Op Spotlight On  
Tigers Tale Page

**INSIDE**

State Trooper  
Visit Children  
In Hospital Dur-  
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**INSIDE**

Elba Lady Tiger  
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non (34) Passes  
Ball To Teammate

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 29      50 Cents      Elba, Alabama      Thursday, December 30, 1999      1 Section, 14 Pages

A glimpse into the past...leave on the new millennium

To borrow a phrase from an old song, "Ain't it funny how time slips away" makes you pause and wonder what happen to yesterday!

With all the hype being made over Y2K, we have all been anxiously - maybe even nervously - awaiting the arrival of January 1, 2000. Well, the time has almost arrived with New Year's Eve coming on tomorrow.

But before we take the giant step into the new millennium, maybe it is fitting even necessary that we cast a glance backward and see where we have been.

As is the tradition with *The Elba Clipper*, we would like to review the past year by listing the following brief excerpts and/or headlines from the front pages of 1999 editions of the *Clipper*.

They are as follows:

#### JANUARY

**January 7** - •UA Experts look ahead to the year 2000 and the new millennium; •Pic - One-vehicle wreck injures Suzanne Johnson, 23, and Jeffrey Hobbs, 26, both of Elba; •New Brockton adds Ford diesel fire truck with pumping capacity of 1250 GPM giving the department three Class A pumpers; •Wilda Ira Stokes escapes from county jail on New Year's Day.

**January 14** - •Early morning blaze destroys Guy's Used Lawnmowers & Auto, Inc. building; •The New Abundant Life Deliverance Ministries offers to buy old Elba High School properties; •Pic - Truck-car crash on AL Hwy. 87S seriously injures Percy W. Hawes, 81, of Daleville; •County Schools' Superintendent Rodger Bowden commends board members for their work.

**January 21** - •Pic - Downtown march in New Brockton celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; •District Attorney Mark Fuller sworn in for first full term as DA for the 12th Judicial Circuit of Alabama (Coffee & Pike counties); •Elba police recover goods taken in Family Dollar burglary.

**January 28** - •Coffee County Commission receives \$30,000 check from Natural Resource Conservation Service; •Pic - Alabama Governor Don Siegelman sworn in as state's 56th governor; •Coffee County's EMA director encourages individuals and companies to call before digging around underground utility lines.

#### FEBRUARY

**February 4** - •Pic - National Security Group building 6,000 square foot conference center; •Country Corner (BP Station) in Victoria Community robbed at gunpoint; •State Senator Jimmy Holley to chair state's Commerce, Transportation & Utility Committee; •Town of New Brockton in good shape financially.

**February 11** - •Pic - One-vehicle crash on U. S. Hwy. 84 inside the city limits kills Robert Rufus "Rudy" Mann, 53, of Elba; •John Tallas named deputy director for Coffee County's EMA; •Revenue Commission Ronnie Burns not happy with vault design in new Enterprise courthouse.

**February 18** - •Pic - City of Elba adds a new 1500 GPM pumper to city's fire department; •Marcus Antonio Jones murder trial under tight security; •Two cases involving theft of county funds slowly making way through court; •Former juvenile probation officer file \$1.5 million claim against county.

**February 25** - •Coffee County could be rewarded for good bridge maintenance; •Coffee County opens Family Service Center in health department building; •Elba City Council members split on garbage;

•Governor's Disaster Recovery Task Force to meet Thursday afternoon.

**MARCH**  
**March 4** - •Sheriff C. F. "Neil" Grantham's murderer still on death row after 20 years; •Coffee County Commission Len Averett charged with DUI by Dothan police officer; •Address changeover for county-wide E-911 now underway; •Elba Lions Club to host annual pancake breakfast.

**March 11** - •Coffee County BOE studies proposals and construction of classrooms; •FEMA approves \$3.3 million buy-out grant; •City of Elba hopes to break even on garbage; •Elba Post office experiencing change; •City of Elba receives full grant (\$22,000) to repair floor of recreation building.

**March 18** - •Pic - Strong wind or tornado destroyed the mobile home of Dowe Clark; •City of Elba moves toward installation of siren early warning system; •Coffee Commissioner Len Averett facing second DUI charge in one month; •Flood warning system updated; •Grandson arrested and charged with murder of 94-year-old grandfather; •Sara Smith honored by State Pardons & Paroles Board.

**March 25** - •Fifty-year old Fred's Super Dollar Store making Elba its newest home with 16,000 sq. ft. store building; •Coffee County Water Authority one step closer; •Grand jury indicts Enterprise man in grandfather's murder; •Elba PD chief introduces Officers Mark Anderson and Danny Richardson to city council members.

#### APRIL

**April 1** - •Marcus Antonio Jones gets 90 years in (Ronald Howard) Jerkins murder; •Commission Averett pleads not guilty to Dothan DUI charges; •Corps of Engineers releases timetable on Elba levee rehab; •The Columns Restaurant officially opens; •Daylight Savings Time begins.

**April 8** - •New Brockton and Damascus water systems merge; •Pic - Stove fire destroyed the home of Danny and Carolyn Holteger on Route 1, Jack; •Alabama EMA presents \$234,708.35 buy-out check to city officials; •Commission cancels STRANCO contract on cell construction at county landfill; •Elba police officers & K-9 Unit make drug arrests.

**April 15** - •Road paving priority becomes hot topic in commission meeting; •Elba City School Board hires Julius Head as new head football coach; •Pic - Elba Chamber of Commerce hold ribbon cutting ceremony at Derrell's Tire; •National Library Week special in Elba; •An electrical fire in Coffee County Jail Monday morning posed no threat to prisoners housed in the facility.

**April 22** - •Coffee County BOE replacing portables with new classrooms; •Pic - The old theatre in downtown Elba is being renovated by its new owner Jesse Clements; •Elba Work release inmates provide many hours of community service; •Pic - Customized Cleaners has new owner Gary Gibson and a new building nearer to downtown Elba; •Elba C of C members served breakfast by elected officials.

**April 29** - •Coffee County and Enterprise Economic Development Corporation unite in countywide venture; •Colorado tragedy rings loud in minds of local students; •Elba's sewer overhaul one step closer; •Dorsey Trailers shows positive financial results in 1st quarter; •U. S. Congress begins process of funding Elba & Geneva levees' rehabilitation.

#### MAY

**May 6** - Bomb threat made to Zion Chapel and New Brockton high schools - Authorities arrest caller within minutes of threat; •Pic - Elba Market Place opens giving local residents a place to buy groceries after several months of being without a local store; •Dorsey and union members reach an agreement; •Coffee County Farm-City Week Committee takes top honors in state competition.

**May 13** - •Elba BOE members briefed on emergency plan; •Pic - Elba Mayor James E. Grimes proclaimed week of May 9-15 as Police Officers' Week in Elba with Police Memorial Day being observed on Saturday, May 15; •A. R. Williams named chairman of Elba BOE; •Retiring school board member Myra Cowen honored by board members and presented plaque.

**May 20** - •Coffee County BOE okays building plans; •District Attorney Mark Fuller opens Elba office fulltime - Also appoints Marty Weatherford as new assistant DA; •Elba police arrest new Brockton woman on 31 counts of second-degree forgery; •Judge Thomas Head sentences Frances Carter to eight years in prison for stealing; •Elba Rescue Squad to suspend operation on Thursday, May 27, 1999 at 7 a.m.

**May 27** - •Coffee County commission cancels night sessions; •Elba police report no riot in Elba or Mulberry Community; •Pic - New Brockton Post office has Customer Appreciation Day on May 19; •State troopers estimate 19 will die during Memorial Day Holiday; •Coffee County EMA participates in Hurricane Preparedness Week; •Elba City Council hears arrest complaint from Terry Burks.

#### JUNE

**June 3** - •Missing persons draw \$10,000 reward; •Pic - Veterans remembered with all flags flying at National Security Veterans Memorial park; •Mrs. Georgia Estelle Prestwood Sanders celebrates 100th birthday; •The Coffee County Sheriff's Department donates portable basketball goals to county schools in conjunction with D.A.R.E. Program.

**June 10** - •EEDC (Enterprise Economic Development Corporation) proposes regional economic development organization - Coffee County Commission contributes \$50,000 to organization; •Offer of large reward produces no new leads in missing six mystery; •Alabama Republican Party to hold presidential straw poll.

**June 17** - •Coffee County commission passes on purchase of 157 acres of land near county landfill; •Elba designated official Washington Bicentennial Community; •An Enterprise attorney, Daniel F. Carmichael, Jr., disbarred for misuse of trust fund; •County man among six individuals arrested in federal drug round-up; •State and federal EMAs honor Gloria Webb for service.

**June 24** - •U. S. Senator Jeff Sessions says in town meeting Ft. Tucker is doing fine; •Proper disposal of old tires mandated; •Elba's medical community welcomes Dr. Andrew R. Dow, M.D.; •Pic - area law enforcement agencies join together in solving more than 40 burglaries that occurred in Coffee, Dale, and Pike counties.

#### JULY

**July 1** - •Elba begins \$2.3 million sewer project; •Elba Fire department - Safety must come first in celebrating the 4th of July with fireworks; •Wayne Farms 'Southland honors top poultry growers in area;

•Alabama State Troopers estimate 15 could die during holiday week-end.

**July 8** - •Coffee County School System's SAT test scores show improvement; •Pic - The Dollar Bee formerly opened its doors on July 1 with a ribbon cutting ceremony; •Congressman Terry Everett relocates Dothan office; •Republicans select straw poll delegates •Search for "missing six" which haven't been seen or heard from for two months continues.

**July 15** - •Kleinert's, Inc. acquires brand name of Buster Brown Apparel; •Pic - Whitman's Drugs in permanent home located in mini shopping center on AL Hwy. 203; •Coffee County Strategic Plan draft ready for review; •County receives \$36,663.00 Economic Development Infrastructure Grant from state; •Commission awards relocation bids.

**July 22** - •Hollywood film crew recreates Elba's March '90 flood; •Former Juvenile Probation Officer sues county for \$1.5 million; •Rabid raccoon attacks county resident; •Dorsey Trailers experiencing 10% increase in sales over last year.

**July 29** - •New Hope Senior Citizens' Center Project placed on hold; •Pic - Final scene in Miller Brewing commercial filmed at county lake; special affects unit creates torcatal downpour; •City of Elba reimbursed for all police overtime during filming of commercial; •Sara Smith recipient of Line Staff of the Year Award; •Donna McCormick-Morris elected treasurer of APGA; •Peoples Bank thermometer records high temperature - 101degrees Fahrenheit.

#### AUGUST

**August 5** - •Elba Merchants Association organized - looking at ways to improve downtown; •Fred's Super Dollar Store hold grand opening starring with ribbon cutting ceremony; •Woodman of World and American Red Cross form alliance; •D. M. "Dud" Eakin retires as chairman of the board at National Security; •New Brockton Town Council approves paving project.

**August 12** - •Pic - It's back to school as students return to Elba City Schools on Tuesday morning; •City of Elba agrees to share cost in cost for an additional 125 acres of land for the Elba Industrial Park; •Coffee County BOE signs consent decree to achieve unitary status; •ZC Express opens in the Jack Community - the new store is located across the road from Zion Chapel High School.

**August 19** - •Pic - Elba Lions Club donates \$717 to the Elba D.A.R.E. Program - D.A.R.E. Officer dean Blair accepts the check from Lion President Richard Patterson; •Fred D. Clark name executive director of ECA; •Meth lab busted in New Brockton during weekend search; •Samson man charged with murder in victim's death in two-vehicle crash.

**August 26** - •Coffee County adopts emergency ordinance and board appointments consume council meeting; •City of Elba prevails in harassment lawsuit filed in federal court; •Pic - large number of Elba residents "officially" welcomed Dr. Andrew Dow during open house at his office Sunday afternoon.

#### SEPTEMBER

**September 2** - •Missing six remains a mystery - \$10,500 reward being offered for information in the disappearances; •Pic - Alabama National Guard completes another local flood prevention project in Elba; •Linda Young named president of Wallace Community Col-

lege; •Troopers estimate 14 could die during holiday; •Efforts underway to reorganize rescue squad.

**September 9** - •Governor stumps Wiregrass for support of education lottery; •Two arrested on capital murder charges in Enterprise; •Schools - Elba & Laverne - awaiting ruling re athletic association; •Elba Texaco Food Mart officially opens with ribbon cutting ceremony on August 26; •Audit reveals discrepancies in probate office.

**September 16** - •Countywide E-911 nearer to reality - project under budget and debt free; •Pic - City of Elba to utilize old Elba High School building; •\$6.25 million projected total revenue for Elba City Schools; •Gov. Don Siegelman ups reward from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for info on "missing six"; •New Brockton looking at zoning ordinance on manufactured housing.

**September 23** - •Coffee County Schools' budget more than \$13.5 million; •City of Elba has slight increase in sales tax revenue; •Drug charges against New Brockton man dropped by state; •Dorsey Trailers receives multi-million dollar order from UPS; •Commission tables bids on New Hope Senior Citizens' Center; •Gov. Siegelman to visit Elba today.

**September 30** - •Gov. Siegelman approves U. S. Hwy. 84 project; •City of Elba's projected budget totals \$2.2 million; •Commission amends 1999-2000 budget even before its approval; •Rush Enterprises, Inc. joins Dorsey Trailers, Inc.'s dealer network; •City of Elba recipient of \$294,106 storm drainage improvement grant.

#### OCTOBER

**October 7** - •Missing Six mystery ends at pea River's Ballard Bridge - car containing five of the missing individuals is discovered by a dive team with the Alabama State Troopers on Wednesday, September 29; •Pic - Parenting Day - Discover Your Schools proclaimed by Elba Mayor James Grimes - Supt. Charles Pearce looks on as mayor signs proclamation.

**October 14** - •Coffee County Commission approves water system deal between the city of Enterprise and the Goodman and Bethany water authorities; •Elba City Council tables action on reviving Elba Rescue Squad; •Elba traffic stop leads to murder arrest; •Constitutional Amendment on Education Lottery fails in county and statewide; •Public hearing on new post office set for October 25th.

**October 21** - •County's Juvenile Probation Office receives clean audit report; •Pic - Tractor-trailer accident claims the life of Joseph Mark Roberts, 56, of Semmes, AL; •Elba City School Board warned of pending shortage of local operating funds; •Red Ribbon Week honors DEA agent.

**October 28** - •Lewis and Averett lead commission - Kayo Lewis elected chairman of Coffee County Commission and Len Averett chosen vice-chairman; •Fifteen of the "missing six" identified by Alabama Department of Forensic Science; •Elba City Council meeting centers around construction of new post office; •Constitutional Amendment election still being analyzed by many.

#### NOVEMBER

**November 4** - •Coffee County's Enhanced 911 System an operational - major milestone has been reached - still much to be done; •17-year-old youth convicted on charges of making bomb threat to local county school; •Pic - Benton's opens second restaurant in Elba - "Best Burgers South of the mason

Dixon or East of the Mississippi."

**November 11** - •County lacks rescue squad service - commission chairman to arrange meeting with local and state officials to discuss problem; •Dorsey Trailers recipient of 1999 Coffee County Farm/City Committee's Industry of the Year award; •Elba Judicial Division grand jury hands down over 100 indictments; •Factory Connection announces opening date for Elba store.

**November 18** - •Traffic stop sends Elba police officer to hospital - assailant facing two counts of attempted murder charges; •Kleinert's of Alabama has major layoff; •Elba man Billy Joe "Joey" Brunson, Jr., 38, killed in motorcycle accident on rural county road; •Dirt roads in the county are a problem; •Pic - 1999 Coffee County Farm/City Week Committee Farm of Distinction Award goes to Doug Dalrymple Farm.

**November 25** - •City of Elba and Coffee County Commission subsidize EMS; •Pic - Grand Opening held at Fashion Connection on Friday, Nov. 12; •Charlie Webb hands EMA off to John Tallas; •Elba City Council approves drainage grant application doubling to over half million; •Elba's 12th Annual Christmas Festival set for Saturday, Nov. 27th.

#### DECEMBER

**December 2** - •Elba's Christmas Festival a magical day; •Charles Webb, chairman of Coffee County's Emergency Communications Board, says county's E-911 system is working; •State's scrap tire license penalty placed on hold until 1/1/2000; •Pic - 1999 Elba All-Star Frances Brunson light the candle of a spectator at "1999 All-Star Lighting Ceremony.

**December 9** - •Town of New Brockton seek emergency medical services; •Alabama's new seat belt law takes effect tomorrow (December 10) as a primary offense; •Elba businessman Daniel Stephens takes part in NFIB small business summit; •Bowers' \$1 million lawsuit verdict overturned by state's high court; •Jack R. Brunson's retirement as president & CEO of NSGI announced.

**December 16** - •Coffee County commissioners question on purchase of "New Hope Senior Citizens' Center renovation underway - completion scheduled for Feb. 1, 2000; •Elba City Council hears levee report; •State Rep. Terry Spicer appointed to AWB; •Two Covington County men and one juvenile arrested in shooting incident.

**December 23** - •This was the Christmas issue of *The Elba Clipper*. The front page of the paper, as is tradition, featured Elba's Christmas family. For 1999, the Greg Corder Family was selected, pictured were: Greg and Sarah and their two daughters Stephanie, age 11, and Kelly, age 9.

**December 30** - This issue of *The Elba Clipper* reviews events of the past year as recorded on the front pages of the paper.

**HAVE A GREAT YEAR IN 2000**



## BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

Selecting an Elba family to be the Christmas Family is both exciting and a dread. It is exciting because of the chance to showcase some of the great people who make Elba such a great place to live. The dread is knowing how many families of equal quality will not make the cut because Christmas comes only once a year. This year's family, the Greg Corders, fits our mold well and the public comments since last week's paper was published indicate many others share that opinion. The teenage Greg spent as much time as possible in Elba with his grandparents and openly dreamed of one day living here permanent. Following his military duty he and his young wife fulfilled that dream even though his flying job was based in Memphis, Tenn. and he could have literally live anywhere in the world. They are raising two daughters here and both are active in school, community and cultural events. Wife Sara supports the community in many ways and is often seen volunteering in a classroom of the Elba schools where their daughters attend. Her parents followed them to Elba and are great citizens. We could go on and on, but will end with this tidbit: when making the official Christmas Family picture we suggested dad be reading a book to his daughters - thinking Christmas stories. However, Greg reached for Marion Brunson's "Pea River Reflections" telling the girls "let's read about Elba."

This is the very last time that we will commit our rambling thoughts to paper in this century. It is a bit awesome to think back to what has happened during the past 100 years... just the small stuff we know about personally. Adding in the things gotten from the history books and from those who actually lived these other changes makes for a complete new facade on this great country and world. We wonder aloud if the same can be said for the next 100 years. Somehow, there is a feeling that "you ain't seen nothing yet!" The advances in the medical field will make today's doctors seem as odd and uninformed as those who practiced a century ago appear to us now. Technology will move the rest of society forward at an equally alarmingly rapid pace... and it will be for the betterment of humanity. While worldwide people will continue to choose sides and fight wars in the name of religion, signs are already pointing to a trend toward the kinder gentler world, once called for publicly by then U.S. President George Bush.

Looking back at social highlights of the past century you will find that for the first few years it was still expected that children were seen and not heard. Also it was early in the century when women got the right to vote. The ten years were blighted by the violence and deaths associated with WWI. Then the roaring 20's brought out the flapper girls and rumble seats on that relatively new contraption called a car. Radios became popular in the 1930's and WWII and the recovery from that dominated the 40's, while Howdy Doody, Rock 'n Roll and "I like Ike" buttons took over the 50's. Back yard BBQ's solidified the family image of the 60's while beatniks preached "make love, not war." In the early 1970's Mr. Skunk and hit songs like "These Boots Are Made for Walking" made Go boots a popular fad and by the 80's the conspicuous consumption was considered "the" way to go. It proved (at least in your mind) you were successful and showed your loyalty to keeping the economy rolling. By the 1990's America was in to PC's and cell phones and the phrase surfing the net was understood by all, but probably the most widely appreciated of the 90's was casual Friday, or the wide acceptance of a less formal dress... at work, home, shopping, playing or at church. Americans are going into the new century with what is probably the best standard of living ever experienced by a society. There are, and will probably always be, areas of blight but remember that in the not too distant past, before today's heating and cooling systems, transportation, medicine, communication, and other marks of affluence existed, the norm for the more fortunate was something on the order of today's blight.

Our opinion of the Y2K problem is that it was a real concern but the major computers have been tested and life will go on as usual. As to those preaching, and/or believing, the end of the world is coming with the New Year, we ask... will it be at the stroke of midnight here or at midnight in one of the other of the world's time zones? ... will it be on the New Year as we know it or as the Chinese celebrate it? ... will it be based on the calendar we use today or one of the many other calendars used by humanity throughout history? ... among them the one used by the Aztec Indians, or the Greeks of Homer's time or the early Roman Church? In case you haven't gotten a clue by now, our concern over Y2K can be summed up with a pulpit quote of Reverend John Baxter of the Elba United Methodist Church Sunday morning... "humpf!"

It is with heartfelt love we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year!

## Area Happenings

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.** The New Brockton Town Council will hold its monthly meeting Monday, January 3, 2000, at 7 p.m. in the council chamber located in the City Hall in New Brockton, AL.

**NEWS YEARS EVE CELEBRATION.** The Elba Chamber of Commerce will host a New Year's Eve dinner party on Friday, December 31, 1999, at Aunt B's Bed & Breakfast beginning at 7:00 p.m. Prime Rib with all the trimmings will be served and each guest will be given a souvenir glass. Space is limited. Call the Chamber office today at 897-3125 to make reservations. The cost is \$25 per person.

**COUNTDOWN AT THE COURTHOUSE.** The Elba Chamber of Commerce will sponsor "Countdown at the Courthouse" on Friday, December 31, 1999, as plans have been made to ring out the old year and ring in the new millennium with a big celebration. The event is scheduled to begin at 9:00 p.m. on the courthouse square in downtown Elba. There will be dancing, singing and lots more entertainment. Other activities will include buggy rides, face painting, pictures of you and your family in front of the historic courthouse dated on the last day of the century. Concession, some of which will be served in souvenir cups, will also be available. At the stroke of midnight a lighted ball will drop from the top of the courthouse highlighted by a fireworks display and the release of hundreds of balloons. Make your plans now to be in downtown Elba for this historic event.

## The Elba Clipper

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## EDITORIAL

### County Commission's final meeting of 1999

by Marvin McLain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission held its final meeting of 1999 on Monday, December 27, and wasted little time in getting business tended to (accept for signing bills) and adjourning in just over thirty minutes.

County Engineer Randy Tindell requested he be allowed to "go first" on the agenda so he could make another appointment.

He requested the passage of two resolutions allowing the commission chairman to enter into an agreement with the State of Alabama on two projects. The first project deals with the stabilization of the river bank along Highway 474 near the Kinston boat landing.

"It is what we call an ER project which is a result of the flood back a couple of years ago," said Tindell. "It has finally made it to the contract stage."

The second resolution deals with an industrial access project on

County Road 636 near ConAgra's chicken processing plant. Commissioners passed and signed both resolutions requested by Tindell.

Returning to their agenda, the commission accepted the lone bid of \$18,000 from BGM Construction of Enterprise for elevating the home of Maude Patrick. In the last commission meeting, a bid of \$21,000 was rejected because it was more than the amount that had been allotted for the project by FEMA.

The meeting ended on a positive note with Commissioner Bernest Brooks referring to the long-range strategic plan recently adopted by the commission.

"We need to follow through on the recommendations proposed in the strategic plan by turning it over to the county administrator and let him get the ball rolling," he said. Brooks made a motion to adjourn. County Administrator Wilson Mobley the authority to make the necessary contacts and appointments to

vide personnel engaged in outdoor activities of impending danger from various threats. Some examples include tornado warnings, flood warnings and large-scale jail breaks.

Elba has received two sirens with one being located on the Troy Highway near the intersection of AL 203, and the other one is located on the Taylor Mill Road near the Elba

Country Club. Enterprise initially received two sirens that are located at the YMCA and at the Special Projects School on Carroll Street. Enterprise is scheduled to receive six additional sirens, and their addition will provide outdoor warning of impending storms for the majority of the city.

New Brockton's siren is located just off Main Street behind The Peoples Bank.

The town of Kinston is slated to receive an outdoor warning siren that should be installed by the end of February 2000. That siren is tentatively scheduled for placement on West Main Street near the intersection of Peachtree Street.

Initial placements of the sirens were selected to ensure coverage of school playgrounds, downtown areas, and other areas used primarily for outdoor activities.

An audible test of the sirens will be conducted at noon on the first Wednesday of each month. The test tone will be the same as the tone sounded for a tornado, but the duration of the test will be one minute. An actual tornado warning tone will be sounded for three minutes. The first test is scheduled for Jan. 5, 2000, and it will provide a good opportunity to think about your actions during an actual tornado

warning. The test will also provide an opportunity for organizations (schools, businesses, and senior citizens centers) to test their tornado drills.

In the event of an actual tornado, you should take immediate personal safety precautions and listen to either WKMX, WFTZ or your NOAA weather radio for further information concerning the tornado's location, direction of movement, etc. The sirens will not sound an "All Clear" tone.

Finally, the sirens will be tested silently at noon on each Tuesday. The sirens rotate and emit a high frequency tone during the silent test, but the tone is not audible to humans or animals.

Anyone having questions concerning the warning sirens should contact the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency at 894-5415.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 -** River stage - 5.65 feet (6:19 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 102 (7:49 a.m.); Alarm at a residence on North Clayton Avenue (1:24 p.m.); Minor wreck - vehicle vs deer - on AL Hwy. 125N (6:19 p.m.); Coffee County EMS made an emergency medical transfer from Elba General Hospital to Flowers Hospital in Dothan (7:06 p.m.).

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 -** Alarm at a residence in the Shiloh Community (6:13 a.m.); River stage - 4.94 feet (6:35 a.m.); Minor wreck reported on Taylor Mill Road (10:18 a.m.); Alarm at a residence on Lee Street (1:40 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on AL Hwy. 87S (8:37 p.m.).

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 -** Alarm at Bradley's Florist (3:39 a.m.); Burglary reported at Weeks' Tire (5:12 a.m.); River stage - 4.47 feet (6:23 a.m.); disturbance reported at Powell's Trailer Court on Caroline Street (8:32 p.m.).

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 -** River stage - 4.93 (6:03 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 263 (1:44 p.m.); Routine activity.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29 -** Minor wreck - vehicle vs mail box - on Highland Drive (3:49 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 406 (5:23 a.m.); River stage - 5.11 (6:26 a.m.); Alarm at a residence on Co.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 -** Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 501 (2:10 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 501 (8:52 p.m.).

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31 -** River stage - 6.10 feet (6:08 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Harper Drive (8:56 a.m.); Fire department dispatched to a gas spill at Mr. Henry's (9:32 a.m.); Minor wreck reported on Sunset Blvd. (10:21 a.m.).

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 -** River stage - 6.10 feet (6:08 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a residence on Co. Rd. 102 (7:49 a.m.); Alarm at a residence on North Clayton Avenue (1:24 p.m.); Minor wreck - vehicle vs deer - on AL Hwy. 125N (6:19 p.m.); Coffee County EMS made an emergency medical transfer from Elba General Hospital to Flowers Hospital in Dothan (7:06 p.m.).

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## CHURCH

**Country Cathedral to host Area Wide Crusade for Christ**

The Country Cathedral, Hwy. 84 East, Opp, Ala., will host an Area Wide Crusade for Christ Jan. 10-15 at 7 p.m. nightly. Guest speakers for the week will include: Steve Pettit, Monday - Wednesday nights; Jesse Hobbs, Thursday and Friday nights; and Martin Houston on Saturday night. There will also be special music each night with Daryl Luster, Celebration, Nazareth Baptist Church Choir and New Beginnings Choir.

**APARTMENTS AVAILABLE**

For Low and Very Low Income Families / Single  
1, 2 & 4 Bedrooms  
All Utilities Furnished Except Electricity  
If Interested Contact:  
**ELBA HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
251 Morrow Village Elba, AL 36323  
(334)897-2737 (334)897-2532

### CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE

**\$1.00 Per Yard Discount**  
Offer good on  
Any Floorcovering Purchase

**\*\*Coupon must be presented At Time of Sale**  
**\*\*Offer Expires Jan. 7, 2000**

**DAWKINS FLOORCOVERING**  
2119 Hwy. 84 West • Opp, AL  
1-888-264-3140 • 493-9007



We will close **Friday, December 31**,  
at Noon and be closed all day  
**Saturday, January 1**, for  
New Year's day.

We will resume regular banking services  
on **Monday, January 3, 2000**

Have a safe & happy holiday!

**SouthTrust Bank**  
Elba Member FDIC Enterprise

### A Watch Night Service is planned at Haw Hill Assembly

Haw Hill Assembly Church will have a gospel singing on Friday, Dec. 31, at 7:30 p.m. The featured

### Wooten Chapel Assembly of God to hold Watch Night Service

Wooten Chapel Assembly of God will hold a Watch Night Service on Dec. 31, 1999 with Henry and Sherrie Johnson and family. Breakfast will be served after service.

### Women's Conference to be held at First Baptist Church in Enterprise

There will be a Women's Conference sponsored by Coffee Baptist Association, at First Baptist Church, Enterprise. The special guest speaker will be Mrs. Esther Burroughs. Mrs. Burroughs presently serves as director of *Esther Burroughs Ministries: Treasures of the Heart*, a speaker and writing ministry. Prior to this she served as director, Field Staff, in the Church Growth and Associational Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

The conference begins Friday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, January 29, at 8:00 a.m. with coffee and fellowship, lunch served at 11:00 a.m., conference ends 2:30 p.m.

The praise and worship leader will be Ed Mitchell, associate in the office of Discipleship/Family Ministries from the State Board of

Deadline for Church  
News is **MONDAY**

### NOTICE

Due to illness and hospitalization (Southeast Alabama Medical Center in Dothan) we do not have Eria Belcher's column. "Round and About With Eria" for this week. Best wishes to Eria and we hope she gets well soon!

Harris Temple Church of God in Christ to have Watch Night services and revival

Harris Temple Church of God in Christ, located at 717 Adams Street, Elba, AL will begin revival services on December 29th, 1999 and they will go through January 5, 2000. Services will begin nightly at 7:00 p.m. Watch Night services will be held on December 31, 1999 at 10:00 p.m. A midnight musical will begin following watch night services at 12:15 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend these services.

### PASTOR'S CORNER Rev. W.L. Peterson GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

## A new era

I read about a town that had been built along the banks of a river. There was no bridge across the river, and so the people had to go many miles up stream or down stream to cross to the other side. The town had grown into a small city, but still there was no bridge. For many years the citizens had urged the state to build a bridge across the river, but there never seemed to be enough money in the budget for the project. Finally however, their petitions were heard and the bridge was built.

Then came the day for the governor to visit their city and dedicate the new bridge. Everybody lined the street for the parade that was a part of the ceremonies. First came a military color guard, holding high the flags. Then came baton twirlers and the drum major, strutting before the band that loudly played a majestic marching number. Finally came the open auto carrying the governor and his entourage. Cheers went up as the people voiced their joy at the long-awaited event that would dramatically change their lives, the beginning of a new era.

Just a few hours from now we enter into a new era. We will be charting new territory. This new millennium will bring with it challenges that we have never seen before. And frankly this can be frightening to many people. Many people have fears that are real about crossing over into this new era. I hold to the scriptures that God did not give unto us the spirit of fear. It's alright to be afraid but it's a shame when a child of God stays afraid. Genesis chapter one says, "In the beginning God" God has been there all the time. He has been taking care of us all these years. I have no reason to believe that he cannot do the same in this new era. So now that we have finished with the returning of Christmas gifts that needed exchanging, let's get ready to go with God into this new era, believing that everything will be alright. Here's to you, praying that you have a **HAPPY NEW YEAR**.

### We're Y2K Ready...

### ...And we'll be here for you!

The Southeast Alabama Gas District is Y2K Ready. But, as added insurance for our customers, emergency personnel will work throughout New Year's weekend to identify problems that may occur as a result of the Year 2000. If you experience a natural gas emergency from December 31, 1999 through January 2, 2000, please do the following:

- Call our after-hours emergency operator at 1-800-660-8683.
- If you cannot reach the emergency operator, contact your local office of the District.
- If telephone service is unavailable through the emergency number and the local office, emergency messages may be delivered directly to your local office of the District.
- After contacting the District, and until the natural gas emergency passes: Do not smoke; Do not operate electrical outlets; Wait a safe distance from the emergency area; Keep unauthorized persons or vehicles away from the emergency area.

### The Southeast Alabama Gas District



#### NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Ron Ambling, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
Even. Worship, 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Meet., 6:30 p.m.

#### NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Stephen Dubose, Pastor  
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.  
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### A glimpse from the past - December 31, 1899

From the diary of Dora Tate Mason Biggs - grandmother of Charlotte Hobson of Elba



Dora Tate Mason

Here it is the last day in 1899 and I feel like I must say a few words although it is getting very late. There have been many changes in our household since I last wrote almost two years ago. My own dear Grandma was taken sick on my seventeenth birthday Dec. 26, 1898 and only lasted two days. I am now staying in the room over Mamma's, the boy's old room and how I do miss Grandma. Will is at work with the Edison Portland Cement Co. of West Orange, New Jersey. James is teaching school at Spotswood, Augusta Co., Virginia. He was there last year. Ruth married Sam Beard on October 11, 1899 and they are staying with us this winter. It certainly seems funny to be called Miss Mason every time I turn around. This has been a very Merry Christmas and I hope to have as happy a New Year. It is very cold now, about 20 degrees below zero last night and expect cold tonight. I expect to finish school at the Lewisburg Female Institute this year and I have no idea what I will do next year. I have lots more to say this last night of the year but as it is eleven I feel it is my duty to stop. I have a good many little things to regret during this past year but I think I am happier and have more cause to be than most people for God has been good to me and I pray that he will guide me through this coming year and make it the best of my life. I have many resolutions to make, one of which is to try to be at prayers and breakfast each morning for it worries my dear papa and mamma and they are so good to me I ought not to worry them at all. Another resolution is to be better and more gentle to the children. Another to be more earnest about my religious duties. Another to study hard and try to keep my temper and tongue for with me my tongue is certainly "an unruly member". Another to be more thoughtful of others and not think so much of myself but I must not forget to overcome my spirit of jealousy and conceit. I pray God will make these resolutions realities and not merely New Year resolutions. When I begin to look at myself I find so many faults that I can't begin to name them but write down some of the largest so they will be impressed on my mind. And now I end this little note by many wishes for a Happy New Year to my whole family and the world indeed. This is the last time I expect to date anything in 1899.

The above was written by Dora Tate Mason, born December 26, 1882. She was seventeen at the time and wrote this in her diary the last day of the 1890s. She married Charles William Biggs, June 15, 1904. *Charlotte Hobson* is her granddaughter. Dora Tate lived until April 2, 1954 in Lewisburg, West Virginia.

### The facts on foodborne illness

Susan Taylor  
Extension Agent/NEP

We hear about foodborne illness on the news, but many of us don't really understand what foodborne illness is, how it is spread and how it can affect us.

Thousands of kinds of bacteria are present naturally in our environment. Not all bacteria cause disease in people. In fact, we use some beneficial bacteria to make yogurt and cheese.

Those bacteria that do cause illness are called pathogens. When certain pathogens enter the food supply, they can cause foodborne illness. Only a few types of pathogens cause millions of cases of foodborne illnesses each year.

People may be ill with a foodborne illness and not realize it. Foodborne illness often shows itself with flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or fever. But the proper processing or cooking of food can prevent many cases of foodborne illness that destroy bacteria.

Age and physical condition place some people at higher risk than others; no matter what type of bacteria is involved. Infants, pregnant women, the elderly and people with compromised immune systems are at the greatest risk from any pathogen.

Just how do bacteria get into our food? It may be present on products when you buy them. Raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs are not sterile, neither is produce such as lettuce, tomatoes, sprouts and melons.

Foods, including safely cooked, ready-to-eat foods, can become cross contaminated with bacteria

### Whitehurst - Crittenden united in marriage November 27th

Charlotte Denise Crittenden and Robert Paul Whitehurst were united in marriage Nov. 27, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. at the Greater New Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Elba, Alabama, with the Reverend W.L. Peterson officiating the ceremony.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Robinson of Elba, Ms. Willie Mae Whitehurst of Enterprise, Ala., and Eugene Williams of Phoenix, Ariz.

A program of wedding music was presented by Pastor W. Keith Ellison, pianist, of Enterprise, and Ms. Sandra Glenn, soloist, of Montgomery, Ala.

Serving as Matron of Honor was Mrs. Falsula Bilal of Elba. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Pam Culver, Mrs. Sonya Adams, both of Elba, and Mrs. Florence Barnes of Montgomery. Little Miss Sydney Crittenden of Elba served as Flower Girl.

After a honeymoon, the couple resides in Elba.



Mr. & Mrs. Robert Whitehurst

### Americans love hamburgers

Sandra Coffey  
County Extension Coordinator

Let's face it. Millions of Americans love a great hamburger. Whether it's topped with tomato, lettuce, onion or cheese; cooked on the stove or on the grill; in the backyard, the hamburger is truly an American tradition.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reminds us that hamburger and other meat products could contain bacteria that are harmful, especially to children, if not cooked or handled properly. That's why we encourage you to follow these simple food safety rules:

After shopping, quickly freeze or refrigerate all ground meat and other perishable foods.

Never thaw food on the counter or let it sit out of the refrigerator for more than two hours.

Wash hands, utensils and work areas with hot soapy water after contact with raw meat to keep bacteria from spreading. Also wash hands after using the bathroom or diapering a child.

And MOST IMPORTANTLY, whether you are cooking hamburgers at home or eating them out, check them with a fork to make sure they are done all the way through. Make sure no pink is showing before you take a bite. Send back any undercooked hamburger or other foods made from ground meat. Cook all dishes made with ground meat until brown or gray inside, or to an internal temperature of 160 degrees F.

Store food in the refrigerator at temperatures 40 F. or below or in the freezer at temperatures 0 F. or below. Cook most foods to 160 F. and cook roasts, steaks and chops F. or above. Reheat cooked foods to 165 F.

If you suspect foodborne illness, follow these general guidelines:

1. Preserve the evidence. If a portion of the suspect food is available, wrap it securely, mark "Danger" and freeze it. Save all of the packaging materials, such as cans or cartons. Write down the food type, the date and time consumed as well as when symptoms began to appear. Save any identical, unopened products.

2. Seek treatment as needed. If the victim is a member of an at-risk group, seek medical care immediately. Also seek medical care if severe, such as bloody diarrhea, excessive nausea and vomiting or high temperature, call your doctor.

3. Call the local health department if the suspect food was served at a large gathering, from a restaurant or other food service facility or if it is a commercial product.

4. Call the U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555 if the suspect food is a USDA-inspected product and you have all of the packaging.

Foods, including safely cooked, ready-to-eat foods, can become cross contaminated with bacteria

### NOTICE

Kickoff for Coffee County's American Cancer Society 2000 Relay for Life will be Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Civic Center. For more information, call the American Cancer Society office at 308-9619.

### "BEWARE"

### The Termite Swarming Season Is Here!

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Call TOLL FREE 1-800-239-8023

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# Y2K SALE



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Celebrate the New Year  
IN STYLE



# SCHOOLS

## Zion Chapel Students Participate In Cooperative Education



**Zion Chapel High School**  
**REBEL NEWS**  
Rachel Bryan, Sponsor

### More Co-Op Participants...



**MANDI GREEN**

Mandi works at the Garrett's IGA Grocery Store in Brundidge. Her duties most often are the duties of a cashier. She is a senior and this is her first year as a member of the cooperative education class. She says that being in CO-OP has helped her learn about business and industry and has made her familiar with using some advanced technology.



**HEATHER ARNOLD**

Heather works at the Jack-in-a-Box Daycare and Learning Center where she is a teacher's aide. Her duties include supervising children during inside and outside play. She colors, sings, and reads to the children. She also cleans and helps out in any capacity that she is needed. She enjoys working with the pre-toddlers who are in the 1 to 2 1/2 year old group.

Heather is president of FCCLA, vice president of FFA, office manager of FBLA and a member of the FBLA Parliamentary Procedure Team. She is also a member of SGA.



**JESSICA JOHNSTON**

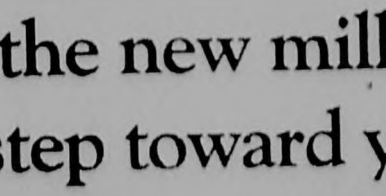
Jessica is a second year CO-OP student. She is employed at Papa John's in Enterprise, where she is a part of the management team. She runs the shifts on Saturdays and Sundays. She works 25-30 hours per week. She says that even though she has a busy schedule, she has a little time to spare. She is a member of FBLA and FFA.



**DEWAYNE DAVIS**

Dewayne is employed at Kleinert's of Elba where he is a materials handler. His duties include gathering fabric needed for repair, relocations, and samples. He is also responsible for putting up returns and loading and unloading trailers.

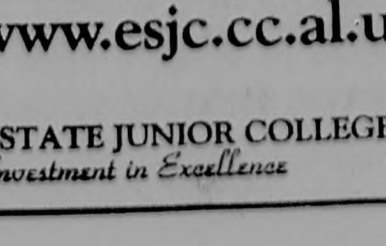
Dewayne is a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. After high school he plans to attend Douglas McArthur State Technical College and major in computer analysis.



**LASHELL MARLER**

Lashell is a senior who is a member of the CO-OP class for the first time. She is employed by the Coffee County Board of Education where her duties include answering the phone, handling purchase orders, and other general office work. Her job title is General Office Clerk. She leaves school at 12:45 and is on the job by 1 p.m. She says that the things she like most about her job are the people she works with.

Lashell is a member of the Beta Club and the Future Business Leaders of America. She had a grade point average of 4.0 and is ranked in the top five in her class.



**JILL JINRIGHT**

Jill is a senior at Zion Chapel and has been in the cooperative education program for two years. She is employed at Kelly's Bar-B-Que in Elba where she has actually worked for three years. Her duties for her job include waiting on customers, cashiering, and cleaning. She goes to class at Enterprise State Junior College on Mondays and Wednesdays, but four other nights of the week she can be found at Kelly's.

Lashell is a member of the Beta Club and the Future Business Leaders of America. She had a grade point average of 4.0 and is ranked in the top five in her class.



**JUSTIN PRESCOTT**

Justin has been in CO-OP for two years. He is one of the nine seniors enrolled in the class. He is employed at the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Enterprise. His job title is cartpusher/stockman. His duties include bringing the buggies in from the parking lot where they have been left by customers and helping customers with carryouts.

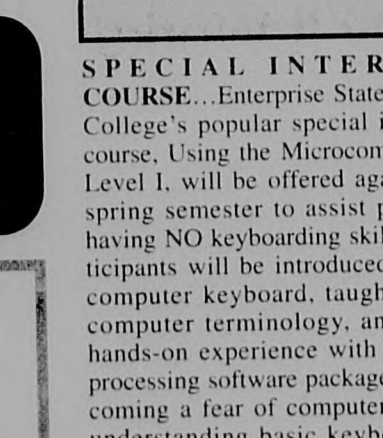
Justin is Sentinel of FFA and a member of both FBLA and FCCLA.



**TANIA PALMA**

Tania works for the Spic and Span by Diane Cleaning Service where her duties include cleaning bathroom, bedrooms, living rooms, and other rooms inside of houses. She also cleans the outside of houses.

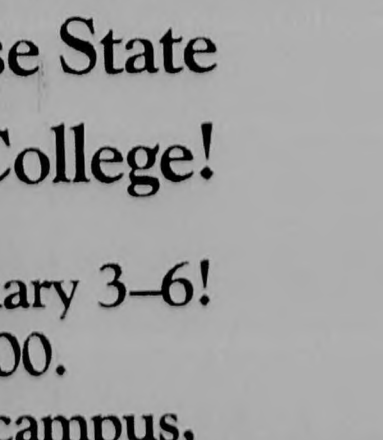
Tania is a senior who is enrolled in cooperative education for this first time this year.



**STACY JINRIGHT**

Stacy also works for the Spic and Span by Diane Cleaning Service where her duties include cleaning houses both inside and outside. Her duties are much the same as Tania's. They frequently work together.

Stacy is a senior and this is her first year in CO-OP.



**KELLI CULVER**

Kelli works at the Sonic Drive-In located in Enterprise. She says that she does any job that the management asks her to do but mostly she takes orders, makes drinks, makes shakes and sandwiches, and bags orders. She says that she has time to leave school and go home to do her homework before she has to report on the job.

Kelli has been a member of the CO-OP class for two years.



**LESLIE STINSON**

This week's Co-Op spotlight is Leslie Stinson. Leslie is 17 years old and in the twelfth grade. She is employed at Elba General Hospital. Leslie works in Medical Records in which she file records, insurance requests, and abstracting records.

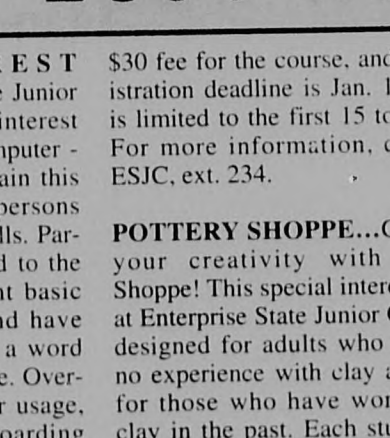
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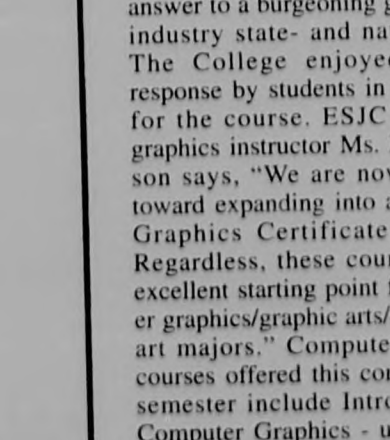
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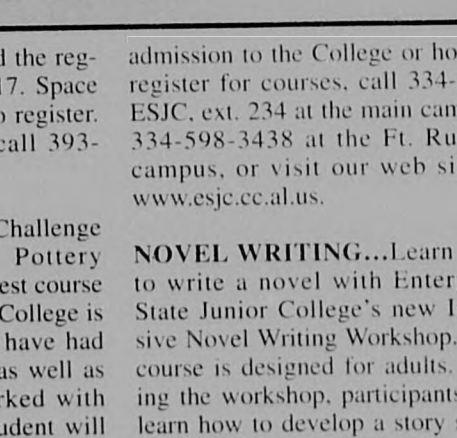
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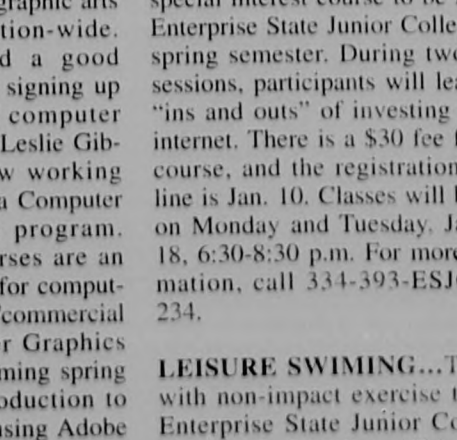
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# SCHOOLS

## Co-Op Spotlight



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## Tiger Tales

Editors:  
**Kimberly Ward**  
**Cammie Kelley**

### Christmas Program At Elba High

by Kimberly Ward

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, Elba High School celebrated Christmas with a special program. The students of EHS were released from class at eight o'clock to go to the auditorium. When the eighth through eleventh graders were seated, they then rose for the seniors. After everyone was in the auditorium, the prayer was led by Kelvin Burks.

The EHS chorus then took the stage. They entertained the students and teachers with Christmas songs such as "Silent Night" and "Go tell it on the Mountain". Members of the chorus were featured in numerous solos. The crowd applauded loudly for the EHS chorus and then other special

groups sang.

Stephanie Williams and Sami Williams, a sister combination, sang "O Holy Night" together. Then Linda and Danielle Gideon, another sister duo, also performed. Lauren Moore also wowed the crowd with her singing talents. Kelvin Burks then performed while Gunter Akridge played the piano. Every performance ended with a standing ovation. The first Assembly of God Drama Team then performed a "human video" for the large crowd.

The program ended and the students returned to class. The program was great and was surely enjoyed by everyone.

### Honor Band Performances

by Kimberly Ward

The Elba High School Band is now in concert mode. The flags and batons have been put away and the instruments have been brought out once again. Not only do the students perform with the Elba Concert Band, but honor bands also.

Honor bands are special groups in which talented musicians from different bands gather to make a

great impact on the musical world.

Recently, several students from Elba attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham Honor Bands.

The Junior High Honor Band was held in December. The students who attended were Carla Roberts, Deann Smith, Darren Dawkins, Freddie Mallory, Courtney Pelham, Andy Waldall, Melissa Sanders, Katie Dyess, Kimberly Farris, Hannah Martin, Blake Brunson, and Katrina Farris.

The High School Honor Band was held for December 8 through 11. The students who attended were Jassen Hays, Wesley Kelley, Ashley Harrelson, Randy Beach, Anthony Burks, Bethany Dye, Gunter Akridge, and Kimberly Ward.

The students practiced for long hours once they were placed in the assigned bands and were very tired at the end of the day. Not only did they work, but they shopped until they dropped. The students had a great time and learned a lot, and finally got to show it off at the concerts on the last day.

These professionals help children with disabilities overcome the myth that they cannot succeed in school or work. With their help, an increasing number of children with disabilities have been succeeding in school and enrolling in college.

The National Clearinghouse for Professionals in Special Education strives to improve learning results for children with disabilities by enhancing the nation's capacity to recruit, prepare and retain well-qualified diverse educators for infants and children with disabilities. For more information, visit the Clearinghouse web site at [www.special-ed-careers.org](http://www.special-ed-careers.org).

A dramatic increase is expected in the number of special education jobs that need to be filled. Special Education Teacher jobs totaled 407,000 in 1996, but are expected to jump to 648,000 by 2006. Teacher aide jobs are expected to grow from 981,000 to 1,352,000.

Special educators are highly trained individuals who are masters of learning styles and teaching strategies. They tend to be the type of person who loves challenges, likes to think creatively and enjoys problem solving.

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### Elba High Gets Neighborhood Weathernet

by Kimberly Ward

Elba High School had a very special guest on Dec. 10. Rich Thomas, a weatherman from WSFA, came to present the new Neighborhood Weathernet to the high school.

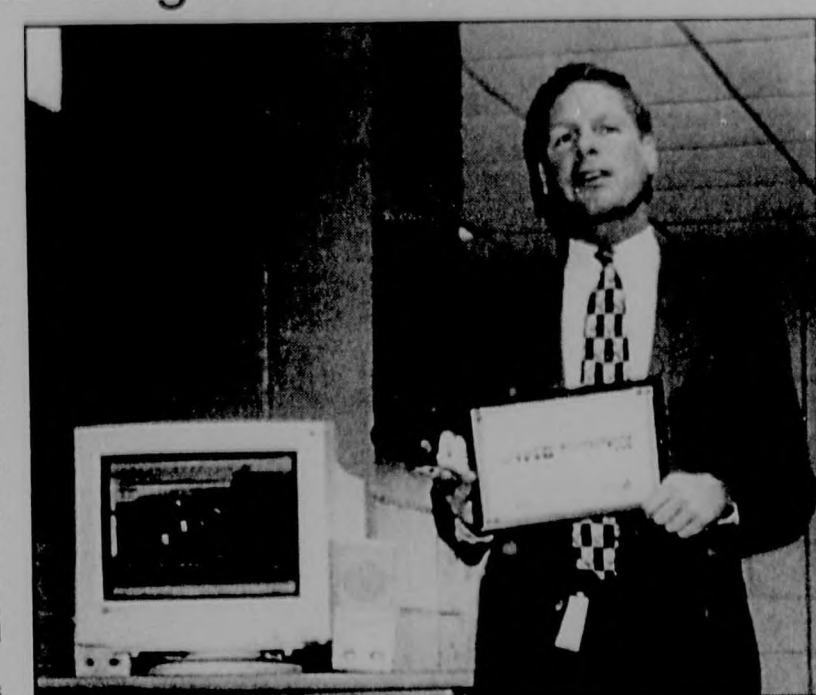
Mr. Thomas started by asking the students from Mrs. Julie Norris's ninth grade science class and the EHS Journalism Staff about the Weathernet and how it would affect them. Then, the tables turned and the students asked Mr. Thomas questions.

Questions included "What is your favorite part of being a weatherman?" to "How long have you been working at WSFA?"

The presentation was then made. A plaque was then presented to Mr. Danny Weeks, the Principal, and Mrs. Norris.

A videographer from WSFA was also there, and he shot footage for the nightly broadcast of WSFA.

The students were then told to tune in for the 5:00, 6:00, and 10:00 reports to see the special event.



**WSFA Weatherman Rich Thomas makes presentation**  
Elba High School is proud to have WSFA as a part of the school. So, next time you need to know about the weather, just sign in on the internet and visit the newest Weathernet site in Elba.

### EHS Students' New Year's Resolutions

by Kimberly Ward

The New Year is nearing and many things are changing. Everyone has a something special in their heart to change about themselves. Either their hair or their attitude in their opinion needs to be changed. So, the seniors wrote letters to tell everyone exactly what they plan to change. Even though many New Year resolutions are never pursued, the EHS Journalism Staff wishes everyone a safe and happy New Year and the best of luck!

**Raeann McCollough** - "To be nicer to people and not to let things bother me as bad."  
**Aaron Holland** - "To make more money."

**Greg Bowers** - "To remember how I spent my money."  
**Melissa Farris** - "To study and to not worry as much."  
**Brandy Mills** - "To get a job in a photography studio, to love more people, and to just be a better person."

**Nicholas Brunson** - "To not be tardy and be able to drive to school but that is unlikely."  
**Deionne Flowers** - "My resolution is to be the best I can be and also to follow my dreams and listen to my heart because life is short and you only have one life to live. So, I am going to try to live it to the fullest."

**Adam Sutley** - "To have more fun my senior year and get a new truck."  
**Sheena Richards** - "To make it through graduation and get a nice job."

**Cynthia Willis** - "To accomplish all of my goals in life and to make the best of everyday."  
**Karen Spruill** - "My resolution is to make better grades and get a job and a scholarship."

**Kelvin Burks** - "Stay focused on my goals and not to listen to negative talk. I also want to help more people and stop speeding."  
**Greg Williams** - "Get a new car besides the 'Mighty Mazda'."

**Aaron Coleman** - "My resolution is to quit hanging out too late."  
**Keisha Daniels** - "To start a new life."

**Anthony Young** - "Keep doing what I'm doing, just more."  
**Angela Tillis** - "Stop talking about others."

**Tory Reed** - "To slow down."  
**Cassius Wilson** - "To be a good boy in the year 2000."

**Stephanie Williams** - "To pursue my dreams."

### NOTICE

**CITY PRIVILEGE LICENSES ARE DUE**

**JANUARY 1, 2000**  
And Will Be Delinquent  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2000**

There Will Be A penalty Fee Plus Interest Charged If Not Paid By Due Date!

Municipal Ordinances require that all persons engaged in any exhibition, trade, business, vocation, occupation, profession or calling or doing any action specified within the corporate limits/police jurisdiction of **THE CITY OF ELBA** are subject to a **BUSINESS LICENSE**.

**CITY OF ELBA**  
**DONNIE MORROW**  
CITY CLERK

**SPRING REGISTRATION**

**LBW**  
LUREN B. WALLACE  
JUNIOR COLLEGE

**REGISTRATION**  
**Andalusia/Greenville**  
January 3, 2000 • 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(All Students)

**Classes Begin**  
Tuesday, January 4, 2000

**LATE REGISTRATION**  
January 4 - 6, 2000

**Andalusia 222-6591 / Greenville 382-2133 (ext. 3101)**

LBW students left to right: Rhea Miller, Oppi, Josh Hodge, Elba; Shea Free, Elba; and Jason Hudson, Luerne.

### SUPPORT OUR YOUTH & EDUCATION THRU LOCAL SCHOOLS



Chip & Linda Westbrook  
Field Representatives  
Lodge #1932  
510 West Simmons  
Elba, AL 36323  
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**WOODMEN OF THE WORLD/OMAHA WOODMEN LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY**  
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on the web - [www.woodmen.com](http://www.woodmen.com)



**Start the new millennium with a step toward your future at Enterprise State Junior College!**

Register for Spring Semester January 3-6!  
Classes begin January 7, 2000.  
Call 334-393-ESJC at the main campus,  
334-598-3438 at the Ft. Rucker campus, or visit our  
website at [www.esjc.cc.al.us](http://www.esjc.cc.al.us).

### HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

**LET US ORDER YOUR RUBBER STAMPS!!!!**  
The Elba Clipper  
417 Buford Street  
Elba, Alabama 36923

**SPECIAL INTEREST COURSE**...Enterprise State Junior College's popular special interest course, Using the Microcomputer - Level I, will be offered again this spring semester to assist persons having NO keyboarding skills. Participants will be introduced to the computer keyboard, taught basic computer terminology, and have hands-on experience with a word processing software package. Overcoming a fear of computer usage, understanding basic keyboarding functions, and gaining a sense of the potential for computer use in the home, work and/or educational environment are emphasized. Participants must bring a 3 1/2" disk to the first class. The course, which is the first of three sessions offered this semester, is scheduled for Mondays and Tuesdays, Jan. 24 - Feb. 1, 5:30-7:30 p.m. There is a \$30 fee for the course, and the registration deadline is Jan. 17. Space is limited to the first 15 to register. For more information, call 334-393-ESJC, ext. 234.

**POTTERY SHOPPE**...Challenge your creativity with Pottery Shoppe! This special interest course at Enterprise State Junior College is designed for adults who have had no experience with clay as well as



## SPORTS

Views from....

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Santa Claus made his annual visit to the Mularz house last week, and it is amazing to me that as the girls get older, the presents under the tree and the girls left by Santa get fewer and fewer, while the cost of the holidays get higher and higher. I know inflation has something to do with it, but I am now convinced that it was more fun, and easier on the wallet, when they were both little girls. Happy New Year!!!!

## NOTES OF INTEREST....

\*\*\* The rumored resignation and sudden departure of Elba Tiger basketball coach Marlon Johnston was made official last week by Supt. Charles Pearce, and that means that the second-ranked Tigers will be under new leadership next week when they open the 2000 portion of their schedule with an area clash with Clayton. The rumor of Coach Johnston's departure first surfaced back on Dec. 17 when the coach failed to accompany his team for a game in the Andalusia Christmas Tournament, and later that night the players were telling everyone the coach had left and that his office had been cleaned out. School officials stated that in his letter of resignation, Johnston cited "personal" reasons as the cause for the resignation, and the coach's need to leave during the holidays. The move was unexpected, but Elba High School has had a long line of very good basketball coaches over the years, and I am sure that the next coach in that line will do just as good a job continuing the winning of the Tigers. Coach Johnston was a good coach, but he is gone, and it is time to look ahead and support the Tigers and whoever their new coach might be.

\*\*\* The Elba Lady Tigers competed in the Zion Chapel Christmas Tournament last week and placed second in the four-team event. The Lady Tigers claimed a big win over Zion Chapel in the opening round to grab their third win of the season, but then saw a gallant fourth quarter rally just short in a loss to Arton. In the finals, Elba's girls have lost five games this season, with four of the losses coming by four points or less. The Lady Tigers are still a year or two away from being a 3A contender, however, they have already proven that they back down from no opponent, and are just a few missed shots away from being a ranked team. If the ball will bounce Elba's way a few more times as the season goes on, the wins will come.

\*\*\* Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rucker may have bitten off more than he can chew after making even more derogatory remarks about why he hates New York. Rucker told a magazine reporter that he would retire before playing for a New York team, and then talked about riding on a train to the game with "some kid with purple hair, some \*\*\*\* with AIDS, right next to some dude who got sent to jail for the fourth time, next to some 20-year-old Mom with four kids." He also complained about walking an entire block in Times Square and not hearing anybody speak English, and took a few shots at some unnamed Braves teammates. Rucker can bring the heat when on the mound. Now, let's see if he can take the heat off the field.

\*\*\* I started the Coffee County Junior High Basketball Tournament back in 1983 while serving as an officer in the Elba Athletic Club, and while the tournament survived the consolidation of Goodman and New Hope Junior High, the floods of 1990 and 1998, and a change in sponsorship, it looks like the tournament is now a thing of the past. School officials at Elba High School have announced that the annual event will be discontinued, due to a lack of interest among county schools, and a move away from 9th grade boys basketball at Elba, Kinston and Zion Chapel. Years ago the tournament started during the week and games were played throughout the day on Saturday, and I can remember the old Elba gym being packed on Saturday as the teams battled for the county championship. I know that things change, but I hate to see the junior high tournament end after such a great 16-year existence.

\*\*\* I talked with Arizona Cardinal linebacker Ronald McKinnon last week, and while he didn't admit it, he sounded a little upset about not being chosen for the 1999-2000 Pro Bowl. McKinnon has made over 200 tackles this season for the Cardinals, and will lead the team in tackles for the third straight season, but has yet to be named All-Pro. The former Elba Tiger standout will be an unrestricted free agent at the end of the season, and all but said that he will be making his tackles elsewhere come the next NFL season. I hope he gets the money he so richly deserves, and more importantly to him, gets the chance to play with a winner.

\*\*\* The college bowl season is among us, and the next time I watch a game will mark my first. I will watch the Orange Bowl and pull for Alabama, but that's about all.

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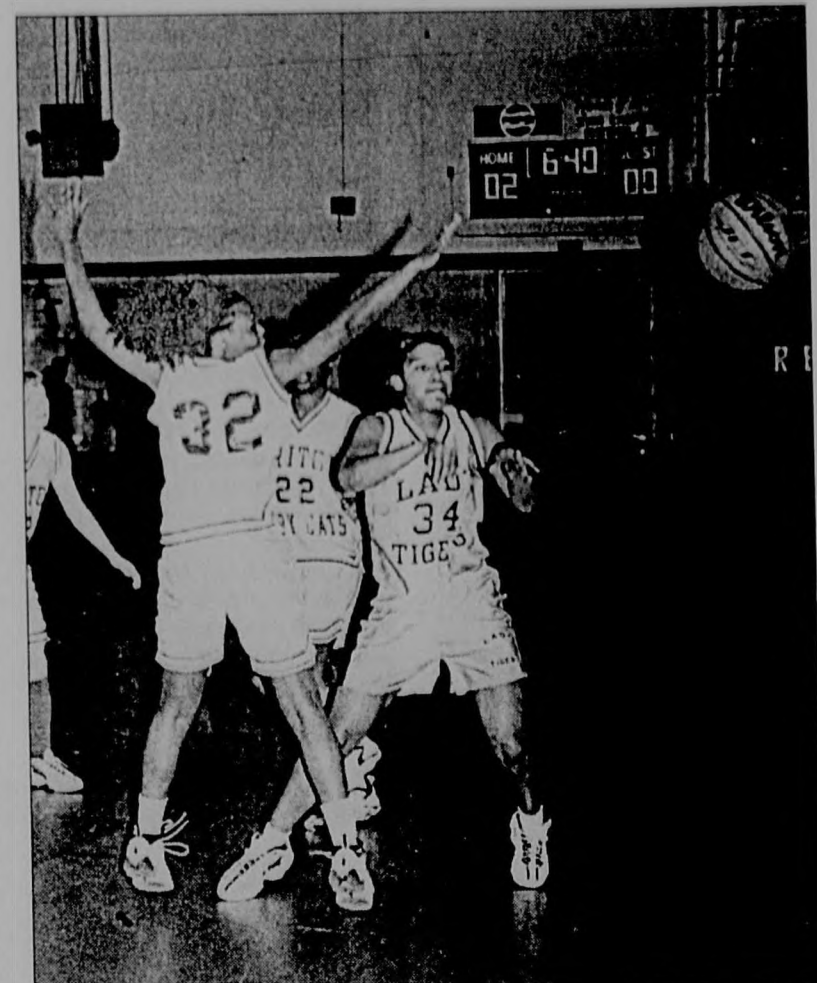
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In Zion Chapel Christmas Tournament

## Elba Lady Tigers fall in finals



Elba Lady Tiger Roshanda McKinnon (34) passes to a teammate in last week's championship game loss to Arton. The Lady Tigers will return to action next week in a key area clash against Clayton.

As head basketball coach

## Elba High announces Johnston resignation

Administrative officials at Elba High School confirmed early last week that head basketball coach Marlon Johnston had resigned his position effective at 12:00 noon on Friday, Dec. 17, and was no longer on staff as a teacher or coach at the school.

Coach Marlon Johnston turned in a letter of resignation the morning of Dec. 17, 1999, effective that day at noon, stated Supt. of Education Charles Pearce. "In the letter, Coach Johnston stated the sudden resignation was due personal reasons, and the resignation was accepted."

The Elba Tigers competed in the Andalusia Christmas Tournament last week and placed second in the four-team event. The Lady Tigers claimed a big win over Zion Chapel in the opening round to grab their third win of the season, but then saw a gallant fourth quarter rally just short in a loss to Arton. In the finals, Elba's girls have lost five games this season, with four of the losses coming by four points or less. The Lady Tigers are still a year or two away from being a 3A contender, however, they have already proven that they back down from no opponent, and are just a few missed shots away from being a ranked team. If the ball will bounce Elba's way a few more times as the season goes on, the wins will come.

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## Farm News

The Elba Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us Friday, Dec. 31, at 9 p.m. on the historic courthouse square in downtown Elba for the last celebration of this century.

There will be carriage rides, entertainment from local musical talents and performers, concessions, souvenirs and family picture keepsakes.

The grand finale will be a countdown to midnight with a lighted ball being dropped from the top of the Courthouse with hundreds of balloons being released.

And, the spectacular event will end with an ultimate fireworks show.

So, bring your lawn chairs, blankets and your whole family and let's "Countdown at the Courthouse!!!"

### Feeding horses in cold weather in Coffee County

by Stan Windham  
County Agent

In general, horses easily cope with cold temperatures. In early winter a mature, healthy horse is comfortable at 30°F. After the horse develops a full haircoat (about 1 inch long) and its skin thickens slightly it can be comfortable at 15°F. Young horses, thin horses and horses which are kept in a barn that have not developed winter hardiness may be cold at 30 to 40°F. Wet or windy days can decrease the insulating ability of the horse's haircoat so that the horse may feel cold at higher temperatures. Because weather temperatures in Alabama often change overnight from warm to very cold, horses often may not have time to acclimate to cold temperatures. Horse owners can help their horses remain comfortable throughout winter by slightly

changing feeding management during cold temperatures. Horses require more feed during cold weather because they will utilize energy to maintain their body temperature. In general, horses should receive 15% more feed for every 10°F below freezing. The extra feed should be in the form of good to high quality roughage rather than grain. Roughages provide more heat than grains because roughages are fermented and digested in the horse's intestinal tract while grains are mainly digested in the small intestine. Fermentation produces more heat than digestion alone, and it is a slower process than digestion, so the heat lasts longer. Additionally, roughages take longer to eat than grains, and the light activity helps the horse stay warm. If possible, horse owners should try to feed their horses several hours before a winter storm rather than during the storm. Digestion increases blood

flow to the horse's internal organs and decreases blood to the extremities and muscles, reducing the horse's ability to stay warm.

Fresh, clean water should be available to horses during winter. On cold, dry days, the horse loses a large amount of water through respiration. This water must be replaced to keep the horse healthy. Although the horse's water consumption will decrease during cold weather, the horse will still drink 8 to 12 gallons of water daily. During sudden onset of cold weather, horses may not drink enough water to keep their digestive system functioning well, resulting in impaction colic. Horse owners may need to offer horses warmed (50-60) water during extremely cold temperature to encourage drinking. Normally horses drink after they eat hay and grain, so water should be offered (or ice broken on water troughs) after horses are fed.

### Food thermometers important part of food safety

by Susan Taylor  
Extension Agent/NEP

Food safety educators recommend people use a food thermometer when cooking meat and poultry to ensure a temperature high enough is reached to kill foodborne bacteria. But a recent study by federal agencies shows less than half of the population owns a food thermometer and only 3 percent use one often when cooking hamburgers.

A food thermometer takes the guesswork out of cooking. You know when your food has reached a safe temperature. It will also help you avoid overcooking and allow you to achieve the best flavor of your food.

There are two basic types of food thermometers: digital and dial models. You can find both types in most kitchen and grocery stores. The digital ones provide a digital readout of a specific temperature on top of a long metal stem. They are battery-powered and will need to be turned on and off. Most will register the food's temperature in less than 5 seconds.

Digital thermometers are placed in the food at the end of cooking to check final cooking temperatures. This makes them ideal for measuring temperature in thin foods such as hamburgers and chicken breasts. They are no oven-safe and should not be immersed in water.

Dial thermometers have a range of temperature featured on a round dial on top of a long metal stem. Large dial thermometers are oven-safe and good for large roasts and whole poultry.

Smaller instant-read dial thermometers are not designed to stay in an oven, but are used to spot-test food during and at the end of the cooking time.

In order to get accurate readings, you must use your thermometer correctly. Large ovenproof dial thermometers can be inserted into turkeys, whole poultry and roasts at the start of cooking and remain there throughout the cooking process. Insert the thermometer in the center of the thickest portion without touching fat or bone.

For digital thermometers, insert the stem about a half inch or less straight into the center of the thickest part of the food without touching fat or bone. The temperature will take less than 5 seconds to register.

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New Year's!

DON'T  
FORGET  
TO



Happy New Year!

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## Before the Rates Increase!!!

Never ending increases in postage and other operating expenses forces an increase in the The Elba Clipper subscription rates in the near future.

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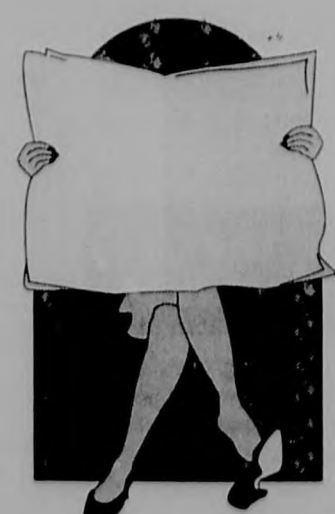
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## Area News

### Free Adult Education classes being offered

FREE adult education classes are offered in basic reading, writing, math, and preparation for the GED Test. Enterprise State Junior College and the Southeast Alabama Adult Education Network bring a session to the Frisco Voting Building, Coffee County Highway 110, on Mondays from 9 a.m.-Noon. Enrollment is open at any time and at any session. Call 393-ESJC, ext. 218 to find out more about these special FREE classes!

### Red Cross to offer health and safety classes

The American Red Cross will hold health and safety classes in Coffee County during the month of January.

A Community First Aid Safety course will be taught at the Coffee County American Red Cross on Tuesday, Jan. 18, and Wednesday, Jan. 19, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day. Tuesday's class will focus on First Aid while Wednesday's course will focus on CPR.

Also, a CPR for the Professional Rescuer class will be taught at the Red Cross American Red Cross on Saturday, Jan. 22, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Community First Aid and Safety is made up of three components: 1. Adult CPR; 2. Infant and Child CPR; 3. First Aid. These components may be taught collectively or individually on any of the above dates. The Red Cross will customize to meet your needs. For more information, please call (334) 347-2461.



**CHRISTMAS MADE A LITTLE BRIGHTER**—Alabama State Trooper Jerry Allen took time off from his busy schedule of patrolling the highways during this holiday season to make Christmas a little brighter for two young patients at Elba General Hospital. Trooper Allen presented brother and sister, Austin Money, age 5, and Melissa Money, age 3, with a "Trooper and Teddy." The Alabama State Trooper's association donates teddy bears in conjunction with local hospitals to provide Christmas presents for children during their hospital stay during the holiday season.

### Free classes in English being offered at ESJC

FREE classes in English at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels, for those who do not speak, read, or write the language, are offered at Enterprise State Junior College on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. These classes are offered through ESJC and the Southeast Alabama Adult Education Network. To find out more call 393-ESJC, ext. 218.

### Make fruit surprise in lunch box: it provides good nutrition

Susan Taylor  
County Extension Agent

You wouldn't let your youngster eat cookies for breakfast, so why would you send them in the school lunch box? Oh sure, every kid enjoys finding a treat at lunch time, but a steady diet of cookies and candy just doesn't make the grade. Why not try fresh fruit as a sweet surprise at lunch time? It's easy to prepare, doesn't have to be refrigerated, and most youngsters need to eat more in order to get the recommended number of servings per day. The nice thing about fresh fruit is that a lot of it comes with its own natural wrappers. All they need is a good washing and they are ready to go in your lunch box. Of course, some fruits, like bananas, need to be handled more gently than others are. As recommended by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the Food Guide Pyramid, school-age children should eat two to four servings from the Fruit Group every day. One medium apple, banana, or orange counts as one serving. Also half a cup of chopped, cooked, or canned fruit counts as one serving.

Juice is another good item to put in your lunch bag, and three-quarters of a cup of fruit juice counts as one serving of fruit. Make sure you are getting fruit juice and not fruit drink. Some fruit drinks contain as little as 10 percent juice and are mostly water and sugar. So, the next time you pack your youngster's lunch, treat them to a fresh fruit surprise.



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Dresser, Headboard, Mirror & Night Stand. Compare at \$299. BAL. \$155

### RECLINERS

Compare at \$149. BAL. \$59.95

### WOOD DINETTE TABLE

New in carton with four chairs. Compare at \$249. BAL. \$135

### WHIRLPOOL ELECTRIC RANGE

30 inch, plug in, plug out burners. Compare \$450.00. BAL. \$258

### MATTRESS SALE

Queen, Tufted, \$29.95. Full, Tufted, \$34.95. Queen, Tufted, \$39.95. King, Tufted, \$44.95.

### MAGNAVOX

25" Color TV, Remote Ready. Was \$349. BAL. \$188

### GE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR FREEZER

Ice Maker Ready, 2 Door, No Frost. Compare \$448. BAL. \$345

### WHITE WESTINGHOUSE REFRIGERATOR FREEZER

22 Cu. Ft. Side-by-Side, Water & Ice thru Door. Was \$998. BAL. \$678

### WHIRLPOOL WASHER

Heavy Duty, Select Water Temp. & Load Size. Compare \$290. BAL. \$158

### WHIRLPOOL DRYER

Heavy Duty, Compare \$238. BAL. \$195

### WHIRLPOOL HEAVY DUTY WASHER

2 Speed, 5 Cycle, 3 Load Size Settings. Compare \$498. BAL. \$268

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Starting At \$175

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### OTHER FREEZERS

Starting At \$175



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**DRIVERS AND OWNER operators** needed with flatbed experience. Great pay, great benefit package. Call Wellborn Transport 1-800-828-6452. Ext. 502. (AL)

**DRIVERS - ATTENTION!** Contractors and fleet owners. Mawson & Mawson, Inc. is looking for qualified flatbed drivers. Regional opportunities now available. Great pay and benefits. Call now for more information. Sherrie at 1-800-262-4766. Locally call 1-800-214-4008.

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**DRIVERS - VANS / flatbed and owner operators.** Tired of downsizing or layoffs? We offer security, great home time, weekly pay. 1-800-846-4321. Call SMX 1-800-952-8091.

**DRIVERS** - When it comes to benefits, we've got all the bells & whistles. Paid weekly - solos \$29 cpm. \$1,000 sign-on bonus, training opportunities. SRT. 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY (1-877-244-7293) toll free (AL)

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**OWNER-OPERATORS** - Run South-east, Midwest. Home weekly, steady refrigerated loads, top percentage complete insurance package, base plate program. Own late-model tractor. Don at Sunco 1-800-446-2864 (AL)

**SE REGIONAL drivers** - Great pay / benefits package. Excellent home time. Class-A CDL with hazmat req. Experienced co. drivers and owner operators call Mike at 1-877-800-6345. www.heartlandexpress.com. EOE (AL)

**SMX** - Hiring company drivers owner operators, regional, x-country, bonuses, referrals, safety, direct deposits, medical, dental, vision, 401K, vacation, Ryder plan, per-diem, excellent pay. 1-800-247-8040.

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**HORSE SALE** every 3rd Friday night at the Coffee County Stockyard. Take sale 6 p.m. and Horses 8 p.m. Located on Hwy. 84 W. in Elba, AL. For more information, call 897-2540. 9-12-cf

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Call 1-800-443-9118  
Ask for Bruce

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• Portable storage buildings  
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• Lean-to-kits  
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• Custom built - all metal buildings  
Quality and Dependability since 1973

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**18 ACRES LAND FOR SALE** - Hickman Ave. Elba, Alabama. Large garden tub, 200 amp power panel meter base \$21,000. David Stokes. 897-5533, 897-3000. 12-23-2c

**REAL ESTATE FOR SALE.** LAW-FORD HOMES. New Construction. 3 BR. 2 Bath. Across from school. Info call 897-2300. 11-4-cf

**TUSCALOOSA** Apartment investment. 167 units near the University. Asking \$2.5 million, appraised \$2.8 million. Offers needed now. Call Fred Fletcher, Realty Executives, toll free: 1-888-839-9055.

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**TWO BEDROOM MOBILE HOME FOR RENT.** \$175.00 per month. Water & garbage included. Out of flood zone. If interested call 897-5002. 12-30-cf

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**3 BR. 1 1/2 BA \$325.00 + Deposit.** 388-4797 after 6 p.m. 11-18-cf

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**UNIVERSITY** of Alabama student apartments. four blocks from campus. newly renovated one bedroom and bath. Call 1-888-719-6470. United Country Investment Real Estate. Tuscaloosa, AL (AL)

**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**  
2 Office Spaces IN One Unit. VERY NICE!  
Call MIKE CARNLEY  
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HOMESITES FOR SALE  
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**Buddy Moore TRUCKING, INC.**  
Now hiring exp. flatbed drivers for January  
Company drivers  
• 401K  
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Apply in person at 2201 24th Ave. N., Birmingham or call (205) 254-3632 or toll free 1-877-366-6556.  
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**One (1) 1992 Dodge D-150 120 pick-up truck, short wheel base, fleet side, 5.2 liter gasoline (V-8) engine, four speed automatic overdrive transmission, power brakes, power steering, AM/FM radio with clock, vinyl upholstery, power windows, power mirrors, complete interior, power bench seats, 412P575R15 with spare mounted on rim underneath truck, as is.**

**One (1) 1992 Chevrolet Astro Van, extended body 5800 GVW, 4.3L V-6 engine with 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive, power windows, power door locks, AM/FM stereo radio, digital clock, cloth seats, heater/delester, 13 packages, light trailing equipment, trailer hitch with 1-7/8" diameter hitch ball, 3.23 axle ratio, white, as is.**

**One (1) 1992 Dodge D-150 120 pick-up truck, short wheel base, fleet side, 5.2 liter gasoline (V-8) engine, four speed automatic overdrive transmission, power brakes, power steering, AM/FM radio with clock, vinyl upholstery, power windows, power mirrors, complete interior, power bench seats, 412P575R15 with spare mounted on rim underneath truck, as is.**

**One (1) 1992 Chevrolet CK31003 one ton truck (flat bed) with four-wheel drive, automatic transmission, 155" wheelbase, 11000 GVW H.D. chassis, 900R rear axle spring, P225L/85R16E tires, power steering, power windows, power door locks, AM/FM stereo radio, digital clock, cloth seats, heater/delester, 13 packages, light trailing equipment, trailer hitch with 1-7/8" diameter hitch ball, 3.23 axle ratio, white, as is.**

**One (1) 1992 Dodge D-150 120 pick-up truck, short wheel base, fleet side, 5.2 liter gasoline (V-8) engine, four speed automatic overdrive transmission, power brakes, power steering, AM/FM radio with clock, vinyl upholstery, power windows, power mirrors, complete interior, power bench seats, 412P575R15 with spare mounted on rim underneath truck, as is.**

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# Reflections on a century, millennium of changes

Editorial by: Linda Hodge

At midnight on Friday night, Dec. 31, we all will share an experience that no one alive today has ever experienced or will ever experience again...the generally accepted time for the change of the millennium.

It has been a topic of conversation for this whole year and most of last year with many people wondering what exactly will happen as we say goodbye to the first thousand years of existence and say hello to the second.

It's hard to imagine how the people were preparing for the new millennium a thousand years ago, but I bet they would have never guessed what the world would be like today just as it is mindboggling to us to think of how the world will be when another millennium of change occurs.

For me, it's amazing enough just to think of all the changes that have occurred in one century, nevermind the whole millennium.

It is true that no one knows what it is like to change millenniums, but there are some people out there who have gone through the Turn of the Century.

My how things have changed over the last 100 years.

I have spent a great deal of time thinking of the many changes our world has gone through over the past 100 years. And, how could I not considering all the television programs and magazine articles dedicated to naming the "Top Whatever" of the century?

And even though I have only had the opportunity to share in the memories of the last 23 years, I have studied in school and listened to the stories of family and friends of what life was like in the days before my beginning in 1976. Not only have these life experiences (before and since my birth) impacted my life, but they have significantly impacted the lives of everyone living today and will continue to impact us all during the new century and millennium.

I believe this to be true because they, quite simply, are the things that have molded us to be what we are today. They were the stepping stones for us as we continue to be

the stepping stones for the people of tomorrow.

There are so many "big" things that have happened during the 1900s. It is hard to pick the ones to mention, but there are some that no one will ever forget whether they were alive when it happened or not. And as with anything, we took the bad with the good throughout the century to get here today.

The first half of the century was filled with tragedies such as the World Wars and the Great Depression. It's hard to believe that there could be a person alive that could not tell you something about the Bombing of Pearl Harbor or the devastation caused when the stock market bottomed out. And, who would have thought that it would take most of the latter part of the 1900s to get rid of the Cold War?

As the middle of the century arrived, so did an invention that no one could have imagined would become so important to our way of life today. A little box known as the television forever changed the world and continues to change our lives even today.

The Civil Rights Movement remains a major factor in who we are today. It was an experience that changed the way one person viewed another and today stands as a reminder of things were and what was done to improve our way of life. Unfortunately, there was an experience during the 60s and 70s that affected everyone.

Then, affects everyone now and will probably affect everyone in the many years to come. It was the Vietnam War, and to this day I don't think anyone really has an answer for all its questions. I think it was an unfortunate war because it lasted so long and affected the lives of so many people. There were thousands of families who lost a loved one during the

war and still wonder why they had to be there anyway. During that time, I wasn't even a dream (or nightmare) of my parents (they, they didn't even know each other then), but I have always been affected by it because my dad fought in the Vietnam War, and it unnerves me every time I hear him talk about the things he went through while he was over there.

I also had no affiliation with John F. Kennedy or his family, but I wonder why someone felt the need to take that man's life. Not only was he the leader of our country (and from what I understand, a very good leader), but he was a husband and a father. As I have watched the footage through the years of JFK Jr. saluting his father's coffin as it passed by, I understood what it must have meant. As a daughter, I respect my father as much if not more than any person in this world, and I couldn't imagine what it would have been like to grow up without him. I will always look upon that historic moment in time simply as a delicate moment between a father and his child in which everyone had an opportunity to share and cherish. It was a moment that helped a devastated nation deal with what was at hand and still remains a part of us today.

Now, I could mention the significance of 1976 as being a wonderful year because it was the year in which I was born, but instead I'll let all the glory go to the celebration of a birthday...America's 200th birthday to be exact. From that year on, I had the chance to experience life's challenges first hand instead of having to hear the stories of what happened when. And, what a time to enter this wonderful world, I must say.

During the last 23 years of this century, I have lived through the Baby Boomers decade (better known as the 80s), prayed for our troops as they fought the Persian Gulf War, felt a sigh of joy as I watched the Berlin Wall being torn down, held back the tears as the people affected by the Okla-

homa City bombing waited and prayed for their family members' safety, was overwhelmed by the tragic death of Princess Diana, shook my head as President Bill Clinton's exploitations were exposed, and I sat with disgust and fear as I watched and listened to the students of Columbine High School in Colorado who had gone through such a terrible tragedy bestowed upon them by none other than two of their very own classmates. But, one of the most heartbreaking things that I can remember happening in the past 23 years was hearing that the little boy who paid tribute to his father by saluting his coffin had himself found an early death when his airplane crashed into a body of water.

JFK Jr., respected by his country just as his father was, never reached the Kennedy complex that final night of his life to attend his cousin's wedding. He, his wife and sister-in-law were instead destined for another place it seems. But, I must say that he was honored just as well as his father when his family saluted him with a burial at sea. Through all this, I have only mentioned a handful of things that have affected our country and world over this century, and it would be unfit if I didn't mention something about our love of sports and entertainment because these things have brought us some much joy and pleasure over the years.

It would be hard to forget such legends (heroes) as: Yogi Berra, Ted Williams, Roger Maris, Mickey Mantle, Hank Aaron, Pete Rose, Mark McGwire, Paul "Bear" Bryant, Kenny Stabler, Joe Brown, Joe Montana, Dick Butkus, Joe Theismann, Wilt Chamberlain, Dr. J., Erving "Magic" Johnson, Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, Billie Jean King, Rod Laver, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Pete Sampras, Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi, Jesse Owens, Mary Lou Retten, the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team, Wayne Gretzky, Tiger Woods, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Stewart Payne, Karrie Webb, Beth Daniel, Mia Hamm, Lisa Leslie, Mohammed Ali and the list could go on for miles and miles. But, there is one thing that holds true of each of these athletes and the millions of other athletes...As we have watched them achieve their goals and dreams, it has given us hope that we too can accomplish anything we set our hearts and minds to...Nothing is impossible...They have proven that time and time again.

Then you think of the many actors, television shows and movies that have helped shape our world today, and that list too could be measured in miles. This is especially true when you think of such people as: Marilyn Monroe, Clark Gable, Audrey Hepburn, Kirk Douglas, Mary Tyler Moore, Bob Hope, Johnny Carson, Sir Anthony Hopkins, Christopher Reeves, Jodi Foster, Julia Roberts, Tom Hanks and Lucille Ball; television shows such as: The Mary Tyler Moore Show, I Love Lucy, Happy Days, The Brady Bunch, The Honeymooners, The Jeffersons, St. Elsewhere, Hill Street Blues, Dallas, Friends, E.R. and N.Y.P.D. Blue; movies such as: The Wizard of Oz, It's a Wonderful Life, Casablanca, Ben Hur, Go With the Wind, E.T., Forest Gump, Star Wars, and Titanic.

Although these things and people have filled us with so many emotions over the years, the one thing that has always been with us through the bad and the good is music. Whether it be the old Country and Western style, the Be-Bop of the 50s and 60s or today's Rap, music has always been a way for each and every person to express his or her emotions. It held true throughout each century of the millennium and certainly has held true throughout the decades of this century. You see, we've come a long way from Amadeus Mozart in the 1700s to the Dixie Chicks, Smash Mouth and Puff Daddy in

1999. Many of the greats throughout this century who have revolutionized music include: Elvis Presley, the Beatles, James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Gene Autrey, George Jones, Aerosmith, Garth Brooks, Led Zeppelin, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston and Ricky Martin. They've all had different ways of portraying their music, but they all do the same thing. They bring us together as one to listen. It was the combination of Metallica (a heavy metal band) and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra that led me to this insight. We all live in an ever changing world. Technology has been the real story of our century. It has brought us things that a person in the year 1899 would have never dreamed of having and things that a person in the year 1999 would never have believed even if you had proof to show them. But, it has done wondrous things for us to this date and will continue to change things in the future. One day, someone will do something we never thought imaginable.

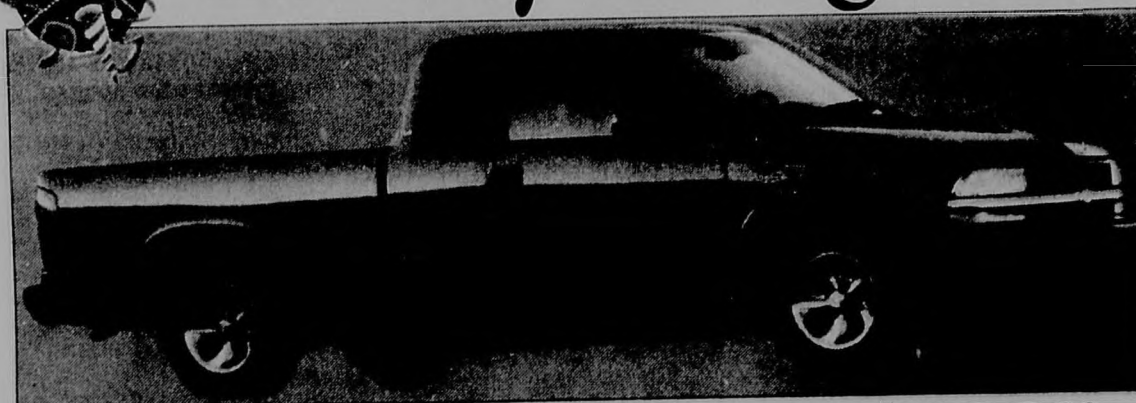
To me...This is what makes our world so wonderful, and I feel honored to be a part of the world during a time when "the sun is shining so brightly on us."

I laugh now as I think that all I ask to make me realize this is the joining of a heavy metal band with an orchestral band to create the wonderful sound of music. I never would have thought about these two very different groups joining forces until it happened, and I am now thankful to have heard this music.

As I drove down the road the other night listening to this unique creation of music, I had a wonderful realization about our century: "We live in an ever changing world that offers us all a chance to live life and experience its joys in different ways with one common goal in mind: Working together as one is how we have made this world the great place it is today and will continue to be tomorrow for our loved ones still to come."

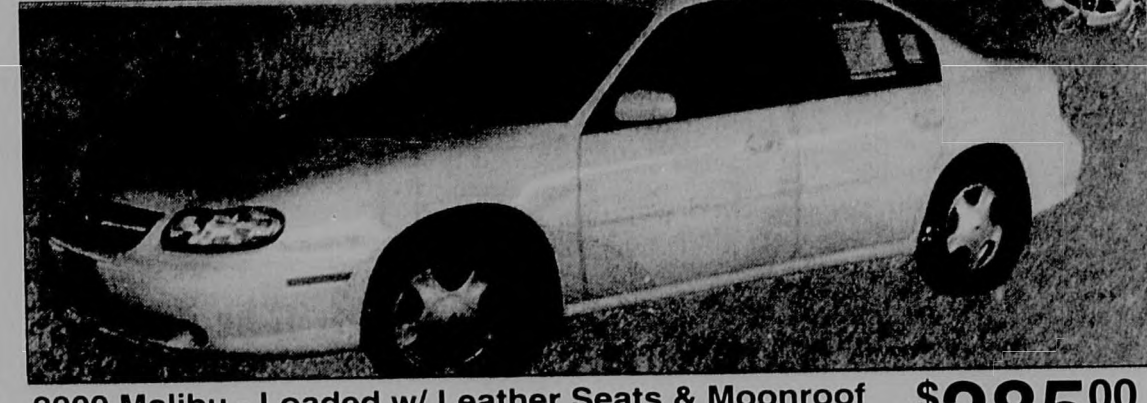
All in all, I guess you could say that's the great thing about time and the changes it brings us. Happy New Year and best wishes for another wonderful century and millennium!

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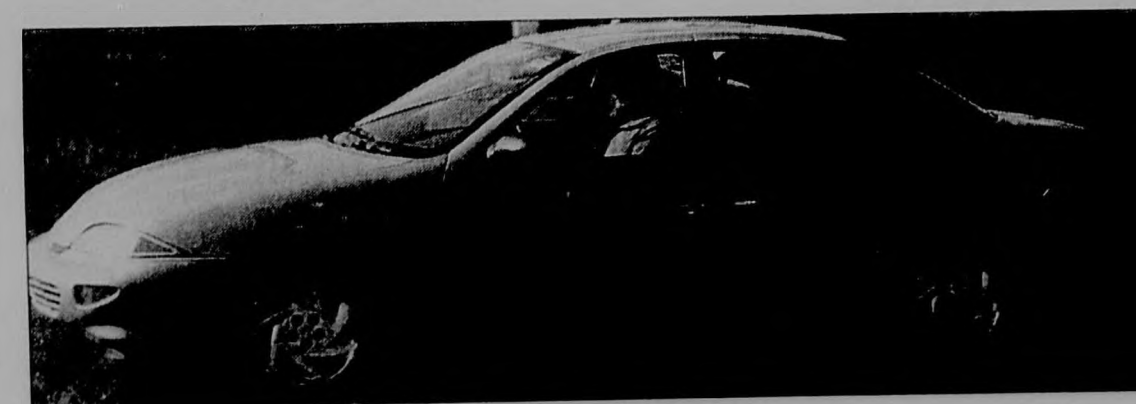
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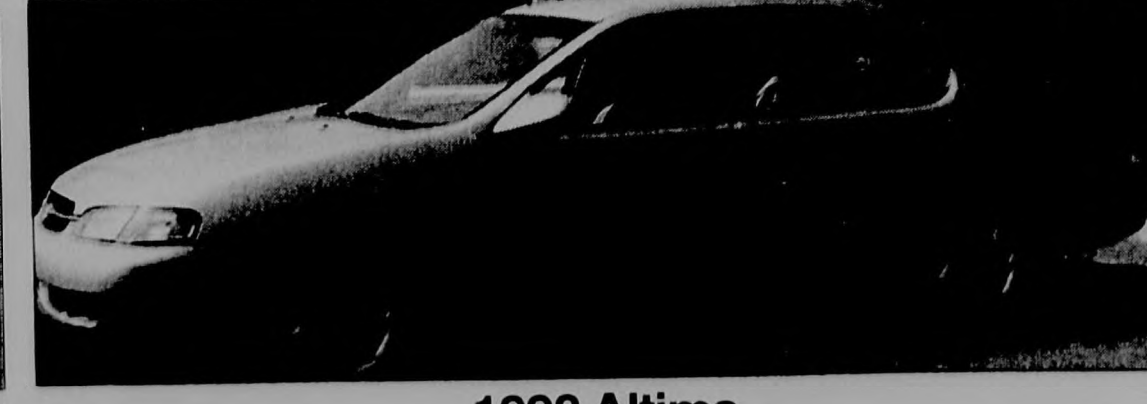


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